



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Headquarters Project; "Blue Heron Trails"



Site plans for new public wetlands and trails at Blue Heron Trails.

"The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."



Wetlands holding rain water after the New Years flooding, January 2006.

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; Who We Are

Established in 1994 as the 505th refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System, and located just 12 miles from the state's capitol, Stone Lakes NWR serves as a magnet for fish and wildlife in the northern Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The refuge is part of a vast network of seasonally flooded agricultural lands and natural and managed wetlands that provide feeding and resting habitat for thousands of birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway.

Today as the refuge continues to slowly expand, more public recreational opportunities are in the planning process. One of the new exciting projects in process is the Headquarters project; Blue Heron Trails.

Blue Heron Trails; Public Use Opportunities and Facilities

Located on the 326-acre headquarter site, this ambitious project is the culmination of nearly five years of planning and involves restoration and creation of 120 acres of seasonal and permanent wetlands, 25 acres of riparian forest, and 100 acres of native grasslands. Another 80 acres of the property will remain in wildlife friendly farming, such as winter wheat and corn.

Since this property lies along a major county road only a mile from Interstate 5, we envision Blue Heron Trails as the main visitor use area for the Refuge and ultimately plan to have it open to visitors from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. The new site will offer visitors and school groups a chance to experience Central Valley habitat and wildlife practically right outside their own backyard!

The site will include:

- 1,500-foot universally accessible trail and boardwalk
- wildlife viewing platform
- photo-blind
- outdoor recreation shelter
- interpretive displays and kiosks
- Junior Biologist Trail activities
- environmental education program
- new entrance road
- vehicle and school bus parking
- permanent restroom facilities

Partnerships Make It Happen!



Volunteers planting native trees at the new Blue Heron Trails.

The refuge's goals could not be accomplished alone. More than any other force, Stone Lakes is being restored through partnerships. You can support Stone Lakes NWR and Blue Heron Trails through scouting and school projects or during family restoration days. To additionally support this project and the refuge, please contact the Stone Lakes NWR Association at 916/775-4418.

For additional information about the refuge, please call 916/775-4420 or log-on to: www.fws.gov/stonelakes